



Emerald Coast VFW Post 10555 ALL-AMERICAN POST JOURNAL

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GO VFW, STAY VFW!

June 2015

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Emerald Coast Post 10555
17680 Ashley Drive
Panama City Beach, FL 32413
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www.vfwpost10555.com



VFW Post 10555 News: Ken Waringa, Commander

This year seems to be flying by; here we are in June already. We have Department of Florida VFW Conference June 11 to 14. We also have a number of great events coming up this month so keep an eye on our calendar. As of writing this we are still waiting to hear about the possibility for the A T & T cell phone flagpole tower. As soon as I hear anything, I'll pass it on. As always we need help with events. If you can only do 1 or 2 events a year that will still help. Please come out and support our events since at this time of year, every year, we go negative financially just about every month. We also need you to get involved with the meetings and running our great post.

Another current issue is the fact that while I've been re-elected Commander, this will be my last term. Please come out and attend our monthly meetings. If people don't come forward to participate our post will fold. Also, with Tom and Margaret Randall moving south we need to elect a Senior Vice Commander. We need help if we are going to keep our post active. I also need a Membership Chair so if you are interested in helping us meet our membership goals please let me know. The last thing I want to bring up is a reminder: If you have something negative to say about the post, don't say it in the canteen. Bring it up to our Post Manager or myself. **Hope to See You in Person See you at the Post, Please Come out and Support Our Post KEN WARINGA**

[PS CLICK HERE FOR THE LATEST STATE BULLETIN](#)

VFW Ladies Auxiliary Status: Kitty Dye, President (kdye8918@yahoo.com)

May was really a busy month. We assisted with Thunder Beach Breakfasts and in drink sales at the PCB Harley-Davidson store. We had a very good turnout. It was a good but very tiring weekend. The Auxiliary earned over \$1700. The Auxiliary catered a luncheon for the Garden Club's May District Meeting and we were requested to cater the next one in Vernon. At the VFW District 17 meeting in Marianna our own Jenny Freeman was re-elected District President. We did not have a big crowd at our last Fish Fry but that is to be expected. It's Summer. When we distributed Buddy Poppies at the Pier Park Wal-Mart on May 23rd we learned that a lot of people did not know what they meant or what Memorial Day actually remembers. We collected donations for our Relief Fund and educated a lot of people. If you did not attend the Memorial Day Picnic at the Post, you missed a good one. Lots of good food and music.

At the last regular meeting we reinstated Debra Tainsh as a member of our Auxiliary. We also installed the new Auxiliary Officers. In June we will have a Fish Fry and a Father's Day Dinner. Fathers are free, all others \$10 (children under 12, \$5). We are also getting ready to attend the State Convention in June.

Ladies the days are getting longer so remember: you can come to the meetings and get home before dark. **Need a ride to meetings? Please call me at 234-8918. Until next time, Stay Safe and Cool, Kitty Dye**



American Legion Update: Post 402 Commander Jim Bowers (scootin1923@yahoo.com)

American Legion Post #402 expects to have a busy month in June ahead of us. We have to great causes we need to represent including the Fallen Black Hawk Memorial Fund. There will be a ride and busses starting at Legion Post #382 in Navarre, Florida at 10:00 AM and ending at Legion Post #340 in Pensacola to raise the funds for the Memorial being built for the fallen Soldiers that have lost their lives in this terrible accident. (Editor's Note: Commander Bowers refers to the tragic USMC training accident 10 March 2015 that killed seven Marines and four Guardsmen. [CLICK HERE](#) for the NBC news story) The other would be the Bay County Special Olympics Fund that will give the proceeds to the organization to help with their needs. This event will start at Legion Post # 356 in Lynn Haven at 9:30 AM and will run throughout the day. Both of these causes are for the respect that they both deserve so let's all pull together and make this successful. Our Legion Post # 402 has BBQ and Bingo at our Post at 5:30 June 12 and I invite all to attend, volunteers to help are *always* appreciated. The Post has another Bike Night featuring the talents of Neil James on June 26th with hamburgers and fries for a \$5 donation. The Legion Unity Ride will be coming through our Post on the 28th and should be a great turnout to represent all of our Bay County Legion Posts. We still have Legion shirts for sale to represent our Post and Commemorative Bricks to Honor your Veteran for the wall. As you can, see everyone can help in many ways and why not make it today? Always keep our fellow Veterans in our hearts and, as always,

Thank You And God Bless America! Jim Bowers, American Legion Post Commander

Men's Auxiliary Charter Was Turned in: John Wilson IV (jjwiv69@hotmail.com)

It is with a heavy heart that I report to you all that our Men's Auxiliary, valiantly defended by Bill McGrath and support by you all for so long, has turned in its Charter and ceased to exist. On our way out the door Robert Heil purchased a new reefer for the kitchen, the old was still for sale at the time of this newsletter. I urge you to continue your support of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; it's Ladies' Auxiliary *and* the American Legion. Please consider becoming a Volunteer to continue your involvement in canteen and post activities until such time as the National VFW HQ works out wether or not the ladies' Auxiliary, charter by Congress in 1914, will, in fact become one Auxiliary open to all eliegele relative of American Combat Service Veterans.

See You All at the Triple Nickel! John Wilson, former President MAUX 10555

A Message from our Pistol-Packin' Post Manager: Billie Jones (vfw10555@knology.net)

Hot days are here but there is a chair waiting for you and a cold beverage at Post 10555 canteen. Come in and enjoy the cool temperature inside and fellowship with friends and making of new ones. Snacks and sandwiches are still available for those of you needing a light treat while drinking a cold beer or cold beverage.

The canteen "big" ice machine was down and had to be repaired last month, now it is making ice like a champ!! Also the lights in the walk in cooler hopefully will be fixed by the time you are reading this newsletter. We have had an electrician out to work on the problem. One more item was purchased for the kitchen that was needed – a new microwave.

Come out and enjoy all that is offered during the month of June. Please check the calendar for all events, dates and time, or give us a call at 249-3025.

Best Regards. Billie Jones Canteen Manager



VFW Post 10555 Quartermaster's Two Cents Rob Smith (robsmith127@gmail.com)

Hello All, we've had our elections for the coming year and just about all the officers are returning in their present positions. We ask that members come out to the meetings and participate, to have a say in running OUR post! We welcome input and are looking for other members to become more involved and perhaps take an officer position next year.

On the financial side of things, March was an extremely good month for us, and April was anything but. May is looking to be a great bounce-back month and with the upcoming beer sales events at Harley Davidson, we hope to get through the summer in fairly good shape. You'd know a lot more about what I am talking about if you came to the meetings, so come on out and participate!

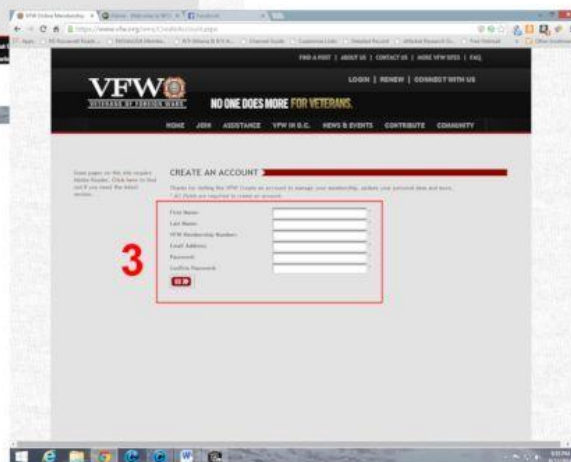
I want to say farewell to a good friend and great VFW comrade: our Senior Vice Commander Tom Randall. He has been instrumental in helping run the Post, taking charge of several events (including the excellent New Year's Eve party), helping out at many more, this newsletter, and doing his darndest to get our membership numbers up. Fair Winds and Following Seas Tom and Margaret, you will be missed! See you both at the convention, and hope to see more of our members at future meetings!

Thanks and enjoy the summer! Rob



How do you create a personal online account at <http://www.vfw.org>? With your membership card in hand, follow these three easy steps:

1. Access the home page, click "LOGIN"
2. Click "Create an Account"
3. Fill in the blanks and Click **GO >>**



Thank You for Your Support of the Fisher House of the Emerald Coast

by Jay Lacey, Bay County Veterans Council President

[The Fisher House Foundation](#) © 2010 is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. The program recognizes the special sacrifices of our men and women in uniform and the hardships of military service by meeting a humanitarian need beyond that normally provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

Because members of the military and their families are stationed worldwide and must often travel great distances for specialized medical care, Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and VA medical centers. These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times - during the hospitalization for an unexpected illness, disease, or injury.

There is at least one Fisher House at every major military medical center to assist families in need and to ensure that they are provided with the comforts of home in a supportive environment. Annually, the Fisher House program serves more than 12,000 families, and have made available over 3,000,000 days of lodging to family members since the program originated in 1990. By law, there is no charge for any family to stay at a Fisher House operated by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Fisher House Foundation uses donations to reimburse the individual Fisher Houses operated by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. No family pays to stay at any Fisher House!

Something perhaps you ought'a know. note to say thank you for your posts' joining the program that saves the pull-tab tops from the aluminum cans for Fisher House. In the past week the tabs were turned in (recycled if you will) at a metal collector and the Triple Nickel and Legion Post 402, along with nine other Veteran Service Organizations, clubs, can proudly say "We contribute!"

Contribute? Recycled? Fisher House? - wait a minute, what's going on? Quite some time ago along comes a USAF Vet who began this adventure, realizing that once a Fisher House is opened, released to house families, and though they continue to be under the Fisher House wing, they are cut loose from the Fisher House Foundation, Washington, D.C., and greatly depend thereafter on it's wit, donations, own projects, & local community for funds to carry on. That is where we come in - the collection of the aluminum. And no, we're not making very much money, and yes, the cans actually pay better, but other organizations are promised those, plus so much easier handling the tabs. Having said that, those collected in the past 4-month period totaled 160 lbs; can you even imagine what 160 lbs of aluminum pull-tabs look like in the back of a pickup truck???




Fisher House of the Emerald Coast Ribbon Cutting 2010

350 Boatner Rd. Eglin AFB, FL 32542

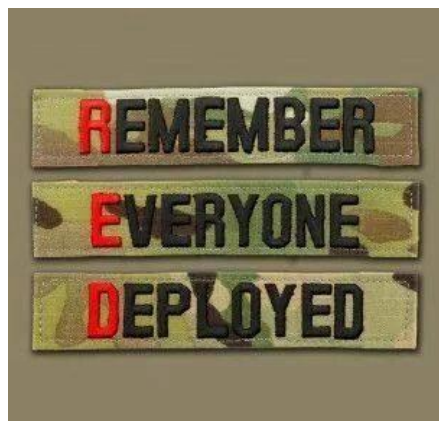
Our closest Fisher House opened on Eglin AFB in 2010, right behind its hospital operated by the 96th Medical Group, USAF. Upon notification that another small check was being mailed to them from the collectors over here, their thanks was - as always - heartfelt and ongoing. We've managed to start something here in Bay County, I wish we could interest the other six Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) to join us, but - now think about it - wouldn't it be something if all the VSOs in Florida were saving these for their Fisher House?

So we are in good company as Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10555 saves aluminum pull tabs alongside Posts 2185 (Panama City) & 10069 (not in Bay County but supportive nonetheless) American Legion Post 402 and 392 (Lynn Haven); AmVets 2298, 231, & 47, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 17, Bay County Veterans Council, and so many other wonderful folk who simply save at home yet know when to bring them. I salute all whom contribute. **Let Us Continue!**



JUNE 2015						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SUMMER HOURS: Sun. 1-6 PM Mon. 1-8 PM Tues. 1-8 PM Wed. 1-6 PM Thur. 1-9 PM Fri. 1-9 PM Sat. 12-8 PM	1 Legion Officer Mtg. 5:30 PM Legion Mtg. 6 PM	2 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	3 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	4 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	5 VFW Wings \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 VFW Bingo 6 - 8	6 LAUX BINGO 1 PM Beer at Harley Davidson
7 Pool Tournament 8 Ball 2 PM \$2.00 to play Win \$20 Bar Tab	8	9 Men's Pool 1-5 Entertainment Com. Mtg. 4:30 PM Officer Mtg. 5 PM House Committee Mtg. 5:30 PM	10 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	11 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	12 Legion Bar-b-que \$5.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Bingo	13 Legion BINGO 1 PM
VFW State Convention						
14 Flag Day Flag Retirement 3:00	15	16 Men's Pool 1-5 PM Gen. Membership & LAUX Mtg. 6 PM	17 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	18 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	19 LAUX Officer Mtg. 2 PM LAUX Fish Fry \$9.00 5:30 - 6:30 PM Karaoke 6 - 9 PM	20 VFW BINGO 1 PM
21 Father's Day Lunch 1 to 2	22	23 Men's Pool 1-5 PM	24 Bring a Friend to the Post 3-6 PM	25 Ms. Cues 2 PM Cards 6 PM	26 VFW Bike Night Neal James	27 VFW BINGO 1 PM
American Legion State Convention						
28 Unity Ride 12:30 - 2:00	29	30 Men's Pool 1-5 PM		Sign up for this calendar by email at vfw10555@knology.net	WHERE TO FIND US 17680 Ashley Dr Panama City Beach, FL 32413 (850) 249-3025	LIKE US ON FACEBOOK 

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Calendar of Post/AUX/Legion events is painstakingly developed at the House Committee Meeting every second Tuesday of the month. EVERY member of our units in good standing is welcome to attend that or any other committee meeting and EVERY member of our units in good standing is welcome to reserve the hall (Fees are charged for private parties, that is to say any event not open to all). For hall fees/reservations, contact the Post Manager, Billie Jones, at the Post 850-249-3025. ***When all else fails, JUST STOP BY! PLEASE!***



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